

On Call



A community news publication of the Arlington, Texas Police Department

The State of the Arlington Police Department

What Are We Doing to Make Arlington Better?

Twenty-sixteen was a great year for the Arlington Police Department as summarized in a "State of the Arlington Police Department" presentation last month to the Arlington City Council and community.

On March 8, Police Chief Will Johnson provided an overview of the year, highlighting the operational challenges, accomplishments and many honors bestowed on the agency in 2016.

The Texas Municipal League Award for the work being done to reduce incidents of domestic violence and a national award for the success of the Mentoring Arlington Youth program were among the many top honors.

Chief Johnson also highlighted the leadership role the department took in 2016 to provide security for the president of the United States and Vice President during the memorial tribute that honored fallen Dallas officers last summer.

**Overall Crime in Arlington
Down
4.8%**

Youth initiatives like Coach 5-0, The Rec after-school program and Home-town Recruiting have allowed APD to lead the way in advancing 21st century policing in the nation.

During his address, Chief Johnson explained how violent crime and officer safety and wellness were among the biggest challenges facing Arlington police and law enforcement agencies around the country in 2016.

While responding to 136,151 calls for service, ambush attacks on officers, mental illness, chronic homelessness and fake weapons were among the department's biggest operational challenges of 2016.

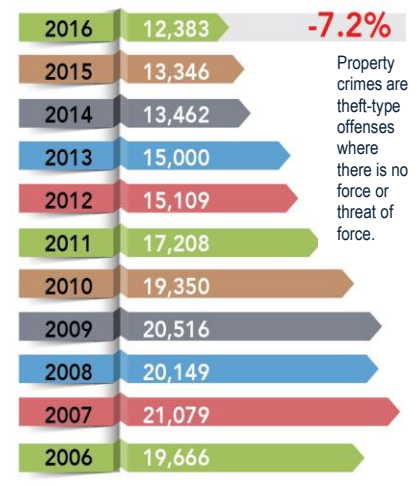
Despite the challenges, overall crime in Arlington dropped 4.8 percent. Property crime was down 7.2 percent.

In 2017, the department is putting a strategic focus on violent crime, officer recruitment and opportunities that strengthen community-police relations, Chief Johnson told Council members. Also in 2017, APD is enhancing its crime data reporting processes in order to capture more detail about the incidents of crime occurring in the city.

"How are we making Arlington better? Everything we do is focused on answering this one question," Chief Johnson said.

Following the report, there was a standing ovation from city leaders. Click [here](#) to watch.

Arlington, Texas Property Crimes



Examples: Burglary, Theft and Motor Vehicle Theft

Nixle Alerts Keep Residents Connected Via Text and E-mail

The Arlington Police Department and close to 8,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States are using Nixle to keep their communities informed about issues of public safety.

The service is free and signing up is easy, said Sergeant VaNessa Harrison with the Arlington Police Department Media Office.

"Parents, students, friends, neighbors, anyone can sign up and start receiving alerts," she said.

APD uses Nixle to share news and information, including the top 10 most wanted bulletins, missing person alerts, special events and community announcements.

When signing up, Nixle subscribers can choose to receive alerts and notifications by cell phone, email or both.

Sign up with Nixle. Click [here](#) or contact the APD Media Office at 817-459-5384 for more information.

Thursday 3:10 PM

ARLINGTON POLICE: Here is another opportunity to earn \$1,000. Take a good look at APD's Top 10 fugitives for the week.

www.nixle.us/9AB44



TEXT YOUR ZIP CODE TO 888-777

Severe Weather Can Happen Anytime Will You Know What to Do?

Severe weather can happen at any time. Hazardous conditions from thunderstorms can produce high winds, large hail, flooding and tornadoes.

The Arlington Office of Emergency Management reminds everyone to have an emergency plan for sheltering in place during a tornado warning. For more information, click [here](#).



Severe weather can be predicted, but deaths still occur despite advance warning. Be informed.

Know What to Do
www.KnowWhatToDo.org

Arlington has 52 outdoor sirens.

Sirens are tested on the first Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. unless weather conditions are poor.

When a siren is activated, seek shelter indoors and away from windows.

Monitor news stations for updates.

Be extra cautious of downed power lines. Report fallen power lines to 9-1-1.

NORTH DISTRICT

More Clergy Partners Are Now Trained and Ready to Serve

A new class of citizen graduates are trained and ready to be of service to their community. On March 6, the Arlington Police Department held a graduation ceremony for Class #10 of the Arlington Clergy and Police Partnership.

Seven new members completed a special two-day academy that gave them insight into daily police operations. They learned how the department works with issues such as death notifications and how procedural justice is applied in every aspect of law enforcement. They also learned how the department investigates domestic crimes and crimes against children.



Arlington Police Chief Will Johnson (left) welcomes new graduates of the Arlington Clergy and Police Partnership. At the graduation, Lt. Jonathan Grant-Brooks (right) served as our keynote speaker.



Lt. Jonathan Grant-Brooks, the keynote speaker, addressed the class about the role of members during turbulent times. They come together to offer prayer, community involvement, information-sharing and support during a crisis.

Police Chief Will Johnson welcomed the new graduates and encouraged everyone to stay engaged and use what they are learning to educate others and help make the Arlington community safer for everyone.

Consider Joining ACAPP!

If you are a leader in a place of worship and would like to partner with other clergy and Arlington Police Department, contact Officer Kimberly Fretwell about enrolling in an upcoming ACAPP Training Academy Class.



Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the North Police District. Contact Crime Prevention Officer Kimberly Fretwell at 817-459-5589 or Kim.Fretwell@Arlingtontx.gov.

SOUTH DISTRICT

APD In the Community For Good Health, Safety and Fun

This month, officers from the South Police District were invited to participate in a Health Fair organized by the Men's Ministry at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington.

This health fair started early with a 5K run at River Legacy Park.

Following the morning run, everyone was invited back to the church campus for a Car and Bike Show and some great food.

There was also an opportunity for the community to learn more about the services available to them. Licensed counselors from our Victim Services Unit were among the vendors. It was great day to share important information



APD and the community together for fun and safety at the Cornerstone Baptist Church Health Fair and Car/Bike Show.

and talk with families about security and safety. There were lots of good questions from kids and adults. The weather turned cold and rainy as the event winded down, but this did not put a damper on the great relationships we made on this day.

At this community event, we came together in a fun and unique way. A special thanks to Cornerstone Baptist Church for inviting the Arlington Police Department to be a part of this event.

Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the South Police District. Contact Crime Prevention Officer Timothy Hayden at 817-459-6468 or Timothy.Hayden@Arlingtontx.gov

EAST DISTRICT

Officers Support Literacy on the Birthday of Dr. Seuss

On March 2, Arlington police officers joined elementary schools in the East Police District to observe the birthday of Theodor Seuss Geisel, an American writer and publisher who authored children's books under the pen name Dr. Seuss.

On this special day, the National Education Association also launched its Read Across America campaign.

Officers visited Atherton Elementary School and Crouch Elementary School and read to more than 200 children. They were also accompanied by



Police Chief Will Johnson and officers celebrate the joys of reading.

Arlington Police Chief Will Johnson who spoke with students about the impact that reading has on learning and reaching their goals in life.

On this day, our youth enjoyed seeing officers in a different role.

A special thanks to all who helped to make Dr. Seuss' birthday a great day for reading, learning and growing.



Every month, watch for a new crime prevention highlight from the East Police District.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Natalia Aumedes at 817-459-5817 or Natalia.Aumedes@Arlingtontx.gov.

WEST DISTRICT

Working Together, Shopping Center Can Be Safer, More Secure

Communication has shown to be one of the most effective ways to effect positive change.

On March 14, officers from the West Police District met with property managers and business owners of the Randol Mill West Shopping Center to talk about crime prevention and safety.

This busy shopping center is home to approximately 16 food and retail stores. Other than a pizza place and a sandwich deli, many of the businesses here are closed by 7 p.m. on most days.



Business owners, tenants and officers are discussing ways to make the Randol Mill West Shopping Center, safer and more secure for the people they want to attract.

Using the crime prevention through environmental design principals, we were able to help guide conversations about the best and most efficient ways to maintain a clean and inviting business to attract the shoppers they want while making sure the area is not inviting to those they want to keep out.

The property managers were also provided a security survey that allowed us to take an overall look at the property and make suggestions for making the area safer and more secure for owners, tenants and

customers. We examined everything from fencing, lighting and landscaping to signage, painting and parking lots.

All recommendations are not guaranteed to stop or prevent all crime, but the methods we shared are suggestions that have been proven effective in reducing crime in other areas.

For more information about safety and security planning, contact your police district's Crime Prevention Officer or call the Crime Prevention Unit at 817-459-5725 to schedule a free assessment.



Watch for a new crime prevention highlight each month from the West Police District.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Doug Glotfelty at 817-459-6072 or Doug.Glotfelty@Arlingtontx.gov.

Ask Questions, Don't Get Hooked By A Scam

The APD Economic Crimes Unit reminds the community to avoid losing hard earned money to scams. This crime can be easily prevented, said Sergeant Dana Richerson.

There are many scenarios, but the most common scam involves out-of-state phone calls requesting money for a family member who has been injured in a car accident or arrested. Unsuspecting victims are instructed to use gift cards. In most cases, victims are instructed to wire money to a scammer in a foreign country where cash is unrecoverable.



HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF?

Ask a lot of questions. Verify who the caller is. If they say they are an attorney, ask for their state bar number. If the caller claims to be a police officer, verify their identity with the agency they say is their employer. A police officer will never ask for cash.

Before sending money, immediately contact the family member the caller says he is calling about.

Coming Next Month: The Economic Crimes Unit will share information about the growing trend in employment ad scams designed to collect your personal data for other crimes.



On Opening Day, close to 125 first responders took part in game-day festivities at Globe Life Park. Baseball season is here! Click [here](#) for the Rangers schedule.



The Mentoring Arlington Youth Program is positive intervention and relationship-building between youth, officers and male role models.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Look AHEAD

On April 19, Buffalo Wild Wings restaurants will sponsor 2017 Community Day to benefit youth. Ten percent of total sales on April 19 will benefit all four of Arlington's Boys and Girls Clubs.



GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY is Saturday, April 22. It is one of the largest youth service movements of its kind. It's not too late to register and then join the City Celebration at the Levitt Pavilion starting at 11:30 a.m. Click [here](#) for details.

DRUG TAKE BACK returns SATURDAY, APRIL 29 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Click [here](#) for a collection site near you.

Saturday, May 13 is May Soccer Day at Trinity United Methodist Church.

From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Arlington community is invited to participate in free Christian-based sports activities for youth and adults. For information, call 817-723-2785.

Congratulations Graduates! What's Next for the MAY Program?

On March 8, seventeen young males were awarded certificates of appreciation for completing an 18-month instructional curriculum as part of the Mentoring Arlington Youth Program.

Arlington ISD Superintendent Dr. Marcelo Cavazos joined Police Chief Will Johnson, Assistant Superintendent Michael Hill and administrators from Workman Junior High School for the graduation and reception. Parents, teachers and officer

mentors were also present.

"Today is a great day," said Shayna Hamlett, the mother a MAY Program graduate.

"These young men are on a journey to success and empowerment."

"On behalf of the parents, thank you for answering the call, a call that often falls upon deaf ears across our nation. Thank you for recognizing our sons and cultivating the brilliant minds they possess and teaching them skills that will last them a lifetime," she said.

Each graduate and mentor

wore a blue shirt and black tie courtesy of the Arlington Police Foundation and First Rate, Inc.

With after-school workshops and program support coming from many areas of the community, "this is what it looks like when the village comes together for our youth," said APD Sergeant Curtis Petties.

What's Next? The selection process for a new class of eighth and ninth graders is already underway. APD is also recruiting more officer mentors, teachers and male

role models while exploring opportunities to expand the program and pair at-risk teen girls with female mentors.

Lt. Tarrick McGuire, who started the MAY program in July 2015, said the future looks bright.

"We will continue to build on the relationships we've started," he said. "We'll continue to have critical conversations with our youth on issues that allow law enforcement to be more effective in our efforts to build trust and advance 21st century policing."

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Send story ideas and comments to the Editor:
817-459-5384 or Cheryl.Carpenter@Arlingtontx.gov

www.ArlingtonPD.org



Nextdoor

